

## TRACY L. LAABS

Cambridge Scholar 2003

Degree: University of Wisconsin Madison: B.S., Pharmacology and Toxicology, 2001

Research Interests: Pharmacology, Physiology, Neurosciences



A 2001 graduate of the University Wisconsin-Madison, Tracy Laabs received a B.S. in Pharmacology and Environmental Toxicology with highest distinction. During this time, Miss Laabs was awarded the Wayne E. Hesch Memorial Scholarship; was an active member of the Golden Key National Honor Society; and, was on the dean's list at the University of Wisconsin- Madison. Following college, Miss Laabs spent two years carrying out research with Dr. Warren Heideman on cell cycle regulation in yeast. Her main focus was the role of CLN3, a G1 cyclin, in governing progression through the cell cycle. She was the lead author on a paper describing her work in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Miss Laabs is currently pursuing her PhD in Neuroscience at the University of Cambridge, Churchill College, UK. Her project is aimed at understanding the mechanisms of recovery failure after a mammalian central nervous system injury. Her main focus is on chondroitin sulfate proteoglycans (CSPGs), a class of molecules that actively inhibit axonal regeneration after injury. She has successfully targeted one of their biosynthetic enzymes with short interfering RNA, decreased their production in culture and shown alleviation of axonal outgrowth inhibition in vitro. She is interested in translational strategies that target CSPGs to improve regeneration following an injury. To this end, she has begun a high throughput screen for identification of small molecule inhibitors of CSPG synthesis.